

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently amended) A piston pin, comprising:
a piston pin exterior margin, ~~at least a portion of~~ the exterior margin being coated with a chromium-nitride coating, the coat[[ed]]~~ing portion of the exterior margin~~ being ~~bearinglessly~~ bushinglessly shiftably matable with an inside margin of a pin bore of a connecting rod.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) The piston pin of claim 1, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited by physical vapor deposition.
4. (Previously presented) The piston pin of claim 1, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of between 1 and 10 microns.
5. (Original) The piston pin of claim 4, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of substantially 5 microns.

6. (Previously presented) The piston pin of claim 1, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed after deposition.
7. (Original) The piston pin of claim 6, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed in a centerless buffing operation.
8. (Currently amended) A piston pin and a connecting rod combination comprising:
a piston pin exterior margin, ~~at least a portion of~~ the exterior margin having a coating being comprised of chromium-nitride, the coat[[ed]]ing ~~portion of the exterior margin~~ being ~~bearinglessly bushinglessly~~ shiftably matable with an inside margin of a pin bore of the connecting rod, a mating of the pin bore with the piston pin being a shiftable surface to surface engagement.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously presented) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim 8, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited by physical vapor deposition.
11. (Previously presented) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim 8, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of between 1 and 10 microns.
12. (Original) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim 11, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of substantially 5 microns.
13. (Previously presented) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim 8, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed after deposition.

14. (Original) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim 13, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed in a centerless buffing operation.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a piston pin, comprising:
forming a piston pin body having an exterior margin;
coating ~~at least a portion of~~ the exterior margin with a chromium-nitride material;
forming the surface margin of a connecting rod of a certain material, including the surface of a pin bore; and
~~bearinglessly bushinglessly~~ mating the coat[[ed]ing ~~portion of the exterior margin of the~~
piston pin with the surface of the pin bore in a shiftable inside surface to surface engagement.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 including depositing the chromium-nitride coating by physical vapor deposition.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 including depositing the chromium-nitride coating to a depth of between 1 and 10 microns.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, including depositing the chromium-nitride coating to a depth of substantially 5 microns.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 including buffing the chromium-nitride coating after deposition prior to mating the exterior margin of piston pin with the inside margin of the pin.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, including buffing the chromium-nitride coating in a centerless buffing operation.